MR. E. I. CHACKO: At Neyyattinkara, it is only a private party that is doing the business. He supplies some blotting paper to the Government Stationery Department.

MR P. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I know the substance that is being utilised for the starch industry?

MR. E. I. CHACKO: Tapioca is the most important. Arrow root is also utilised.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: With reference to the answer just now given, may I know whether it is advisable at the present stage to convert tapioca and arrow root which are the essential articles of food into starch and utilise them for hand made paper production?

MR. E. I. CHACKO: Not at all. On account of the acute food situation, Government had to stop converting tapioca into starch.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I know, of these 9 items, how many are now in progress?

MR. E. I CHACKO: Item No. 1 starch industry cannot be done now. No. 2 pencil manufacture is being done at Quilon. 3rd item pith-hat making is also done at Trivandrum. In items 4 and 5 the experiments are successful. Some people are considering the possibility of starting a dehydration plant for fish, fruits and vegetables. Item 6 Brush manufacture is done on a large scale in Colachel by Messrs. Aspinwall & Co. No. 7 Bone Meal manufactory is in progress. Item No. 8 Slate making is in full swing in Quilon. As regards hand made paper production, Government have been pleased to sanction the scheme and they are prepared to give every encouragement to the industry.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: With reference to answer to part (b), item 1, may I know whether the Government are aware that dry chips of tapioca are being exported from the State in large quantities even now?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: Yes, Sir, to some extent and that goes to Cochin under separate negotiations with that Government.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: May I know whether any permit is granted by our Government with regard to the quantity exported?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: Yes, Sir, there is a limited quota It is only to licensed merchants these permits are granted.

Cutting down of fruit trees.

181. *MR. G. VELU PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the indiscriminate cutting down of fruit trees like the mango and jack trees, has been brought to their notice; and

(*b*) whether they have done anything to prevent the same?

MR. K. SUBRAMONIA PILLAI: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes. Government have issued a Press Note dated the 2nd April 1943, advising people not to cut down such trees.

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MR. G. VELU PILLAI: May I know whether the Press Note issued has produced any appreciable results?

MR. K. SUBRAMONIA PILLAI: Yes, Sir.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION.

PRESIDENT: I have received the following short notice question from Mr. N. Narayana Kurup. "Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether any assault on the employees or person attached to the Transport Department by a gang of military men in mufti took place in the Transport garrage or premises, on any day between the 15th and 17th instant;

(*b*) whether anybody has been injured and removed to the hospital for treatment after the assault;

(*c*) If so, the number of persons injured and the nature of injuries inflicted.

(*d*) the reason for the assault;

(*e*) whether the Director of Transport or the next senior officer below him was present in the office at the time of the assault;

(*f*) whether the police help was songht and whether they came to the rescue in time

(*g*) whether any military has been stationed at several junction of the Transport Bus route in the corporations after the assault;

(*h*) whether the Transport bus service *via* Killipalam was not regular yesterday as the conductors and other employees in the department and the travellers were afraid of a further assault from the abovesaid gang; and

(*i*) whether the Government has taken any precaution against a further trouble to the employees of the Transport Department?

PRESIDENT: As the whole matter is *sub judice*, the question cannot be answered.

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